



PROJECT OVERVIEW

National Governors Association
National Conference of State Legislatures
Casey Family Services

Dr. Larry Small
Project Director
July 9-10, 2012



Project Description

The Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) is a multi-site demonstration project designed to improve permanency outcomes among children in foster care who have the most serious barriers to permanency. PII includes six grantees, each with a unique intervention to help a specific subgroup of children leave foster care in fewer than three years. The aim of PII is to achieve two goals:

1. Implement innovative intervention strategies, informed by relevant literature to reduce long-term foster care and improve child outcomes.
2. Rigorously evaluate these efforts to provide substantial information about the effectiveness of the programs, interventions, and practices implemented in reducing long-term foster care.

The project is distinguished by its provisions for rigorous evaluation, purposeful application of implementation science, and coordinated dissemination of findings.

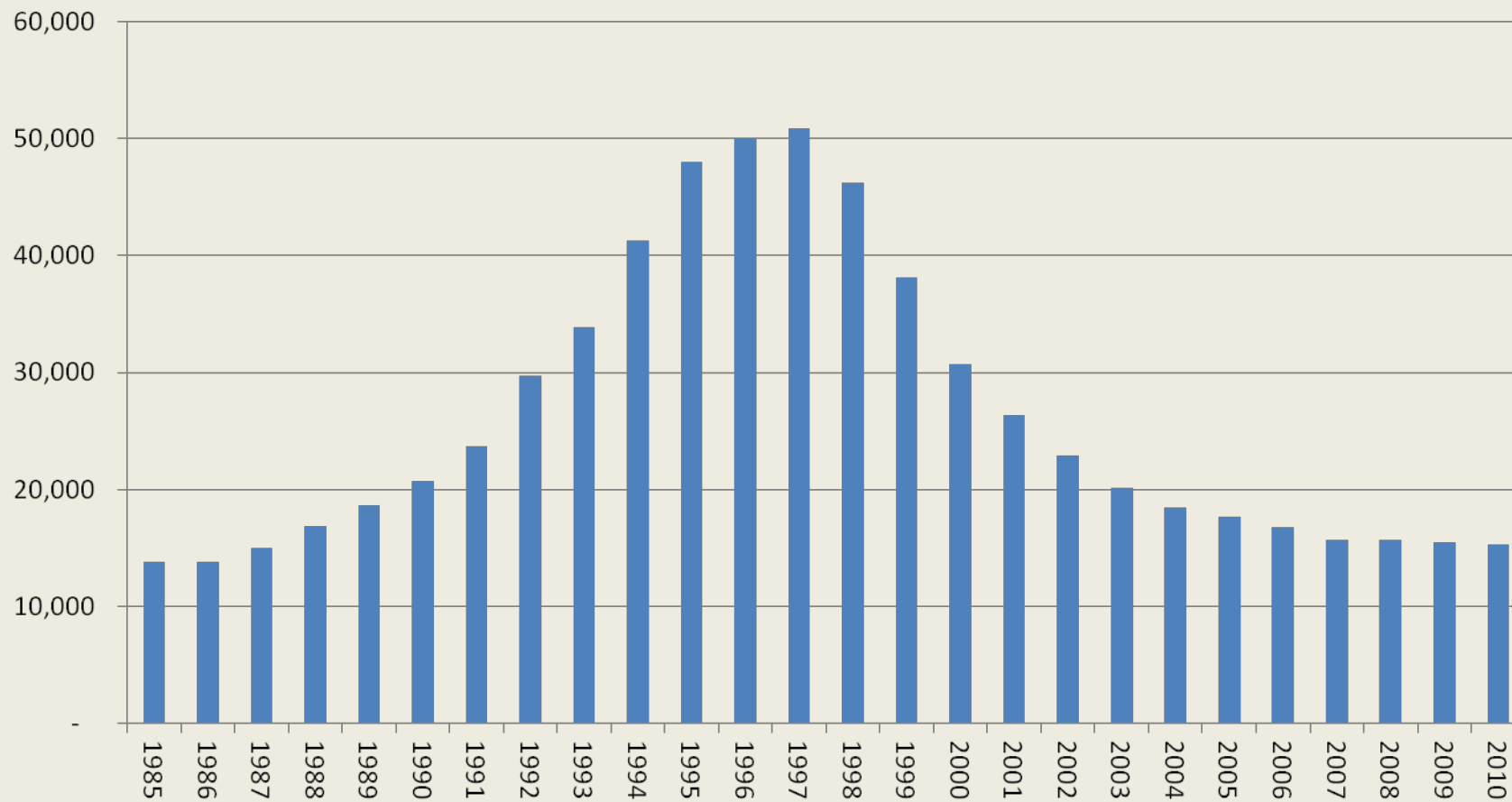
Grantees

Grantee	Project
Arizona	Fostering Readiness and Permanency Project (FRP)
California	California Partners for Permanency (CAPP)
Illinois	Trauma Focus Model for Reducing Long-Term Foster Care
Kansas	Kansas Intensive Permanency Project (KIPP)
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center	RISE (Recognize. Intervene. Support. Empower)
Washoe County, Nevada	Nevada Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care

Project Stages

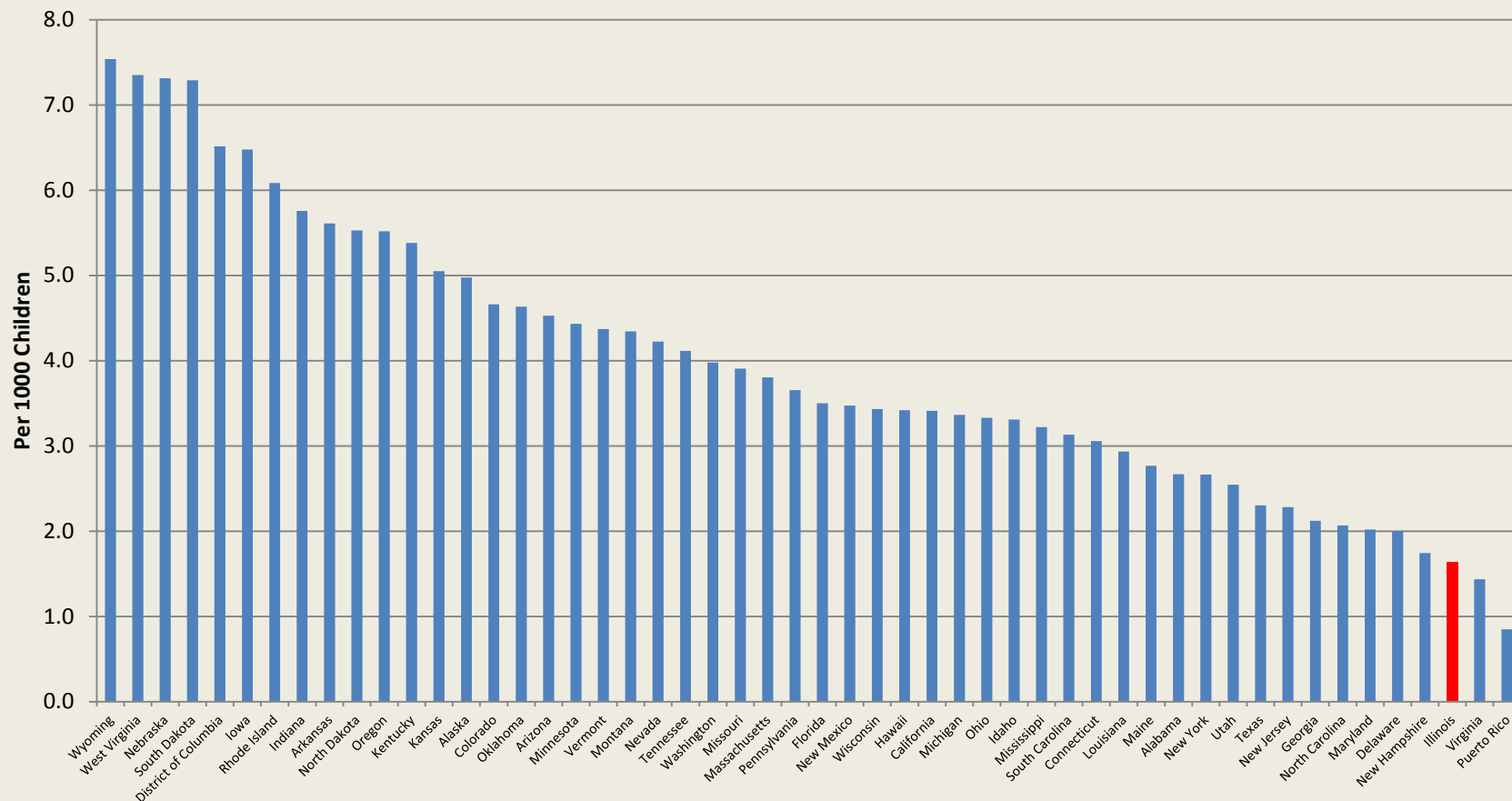
		Implementation Stages	Evaluation Framework
Sustainability	Dissemination	Exploration	Data Mining
			Research Reviews
		Program Installation	PICO Templates & Logic Model
		Initial Implementation	Usability Testing
			Formative Evaluation
		Full Implementation	Summative Evaluation

Illinois: Children in Foster Care



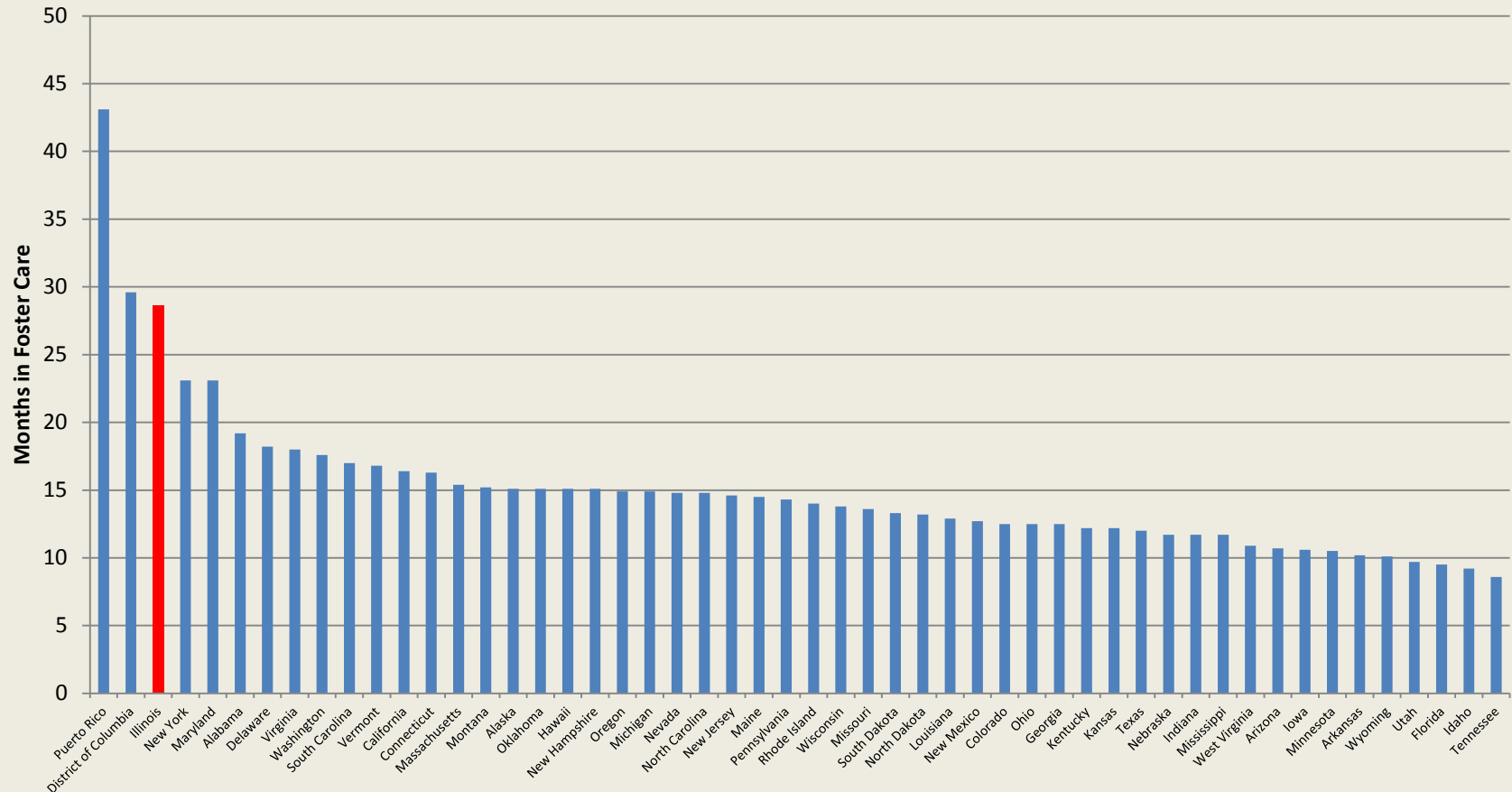


Entry Rate (2010)





Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (2010)



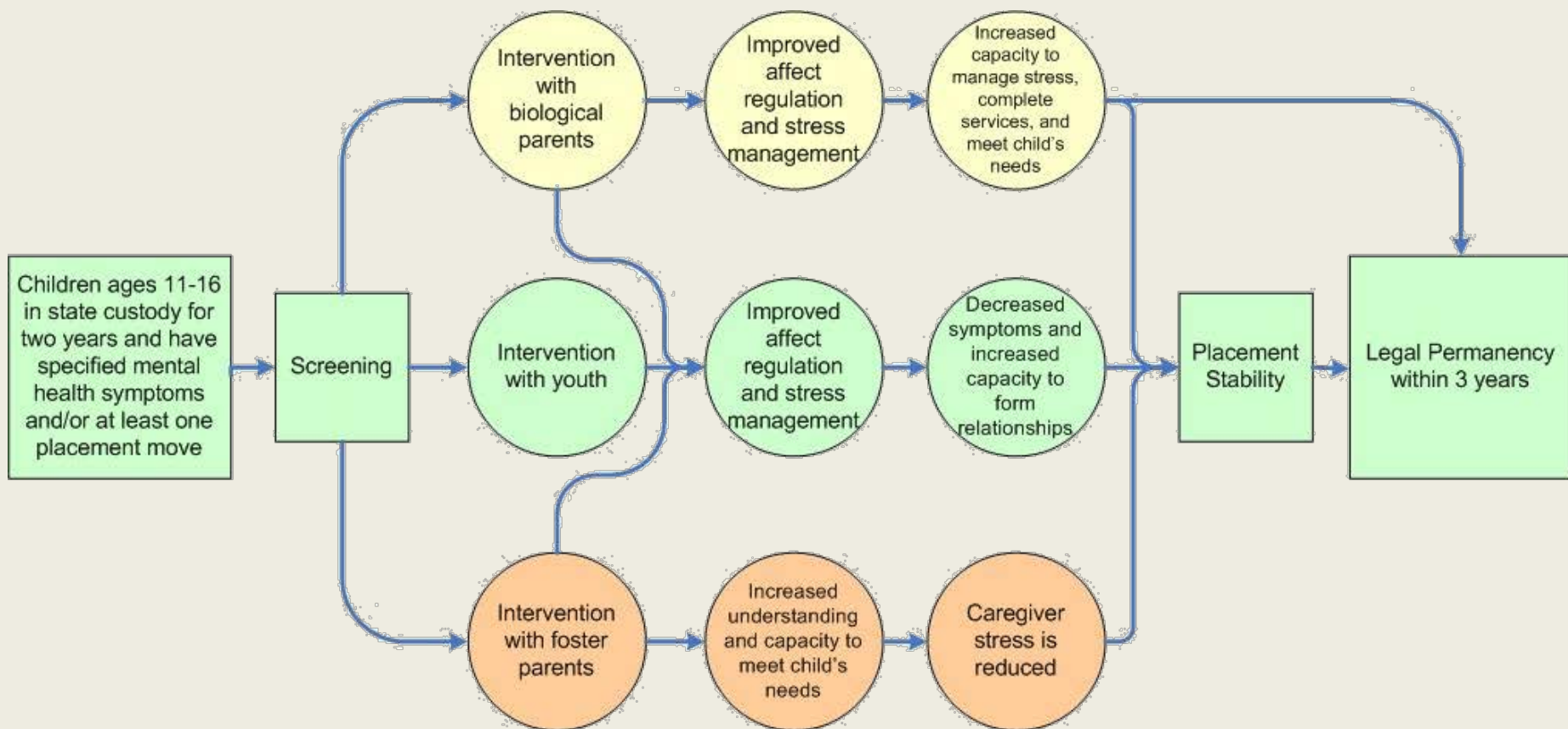
Predictors of Risk of LTFC

- Age (over nine at entry)
- Parental rights (no TPR by 2 years)
- Region (Cook County)
- Placement type (ever placed in IGH)
- Placement Instability
- Mental Health/Trauma Symptoms/Risk Behaviors

Identified Barriers

- Emotional-behavioral issues of the target children, frequently related to histories of complex trauma;
- Lack of biological parent engagement and service completion required to achieve reunification;
- Insufficient or ineffective services to address biological parents' underlying issues related to child welfare involvement; and
- Lack of support and training to foster parents to address the needs and behaviors of the children in their care.

Theory of Change: Summary Diagram



Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET)

- Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET) is a strength-based approach to education and therapy when youth and their families have been affected by trauma or experience a high level of stress related to adverse experiences
- A strong psycho-educational component: the impact of trauma on cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and relational processes
- Teaches clients to identify their own stress triggers so that they can better regulate overwhelming feelings and make and achieve goals for themselves
- Provides skills training and aids (acronyms, graphics) to help individuals remember and use TARGET skills in the moment when they experience triggers for emotional dysregulation

Strengths of TARGET

- Evidence-based practice that can be integrated into other practices
- Materials easily understood and received well by youth and parents
- Addresses trauma symptomology and stress responses, but does not require PTSD diagnosis
- Also appropriate for emotional dysregulation that commonly occurs for youth with behavioral disorders
- Strength-based, empowerment-focused
- Encourages family participation
- Developer expertise, availability, and involvement in implementation

Illinois: Research Question

Do foster youth ages 11 to 16 placed in traditional, relative, and specialized foster homes and group homes throughout the state who, upon reaching the two-year anniversary of entering care, are experiencing mental health symptoms and/or have at least two placement changes (P) have increased permanency rates within 3 years of entry (O) if they receive TARGET services (I) compared with similar youth who received treatment as usual (C)?

University Partners

UIC JANE ADDAMS
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Sonya Leathers
Nancy Rolock
Jill Spielfogel

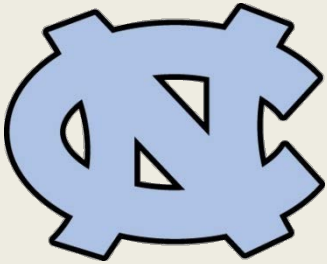
ChapinHall
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Robert Goerge
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Gene Griffin
Cassie Kissel
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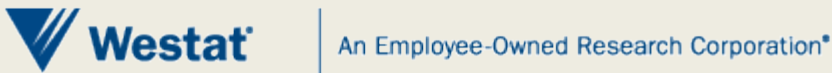
Evaluation and Training & Technical Assistance



Mark Testa,
Principal Investigator



Leslie Cohen
Implementation Study



Raquel Ellis, Senior Study Director
Cross-Site Evaluation
Site-level Evaluation



Roseana Bess, Deputy Project Director
PII Training and Technical Assistance
Project (PII-TTAP)

Illinois: Demonstration Projects

- Permanency Innovations Initiative
- Recruitment & Kin Connections
- Adult Connections
- Promoting Social and Emotional Well-being
(Application in development)
- Title IV-E Waiver *(Application in development)*